

# EXPLOSION OCCURS IN MIDDLETON MINE

## ELECTRIC POWER PLANT LETS GO KILLING DOZEN

Double Explosion of Gas and Dynamite Brings Death in New York.

**STREET CAR LIFTED**  
From Tracks and Falls on a Passing Automobile on the Other Side.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Twelve persons were killed, two of them women, and thirty injured in a double explosion of gas and dynamite in the new electric power house of the New York Central Railroad Company today.

The dynamite blast picked up a north bound trolley car, lifted it in the air and sent it crashing down upon an automobile which was passing along the other side of the street. Four of the passengers, two of them women, were killed and every one in the car was injured.

The new substation power house where the explosion occurred is at Fifth street and Lexington avenue.

The explosion, which could be heard many blocks, partly wrecked a fire engine house nearby and prevented the firemen from getting their apparatus into the street. Hundreds of windows were broken for blocks around the building. The power house which is built of stone and brick and is six stories high, took fire after the explosion and the interior was practically burned out.

Just what caused the double explosion may probably never be known. Damage to the power house and other buildings in the neighborhood will exceed \$500,000.

The police making an examination in the ruins are of the opinion the explosion occurred in some gas tank which communicated with some dynamite which it is understood was stored near the power house.

At a late hour it was learned that thirteen persons lost their lives. The injured numbered fifty and at least 1,000 people were badly shaken up.

Nine bodies have been recovered and the bodies of four workmen are believed to be in the wreckage. Ceilings and windows in hospitals and schools and apartment houses were shattered by the explosion which caused innumerable minor hurts to workmen and people affected in that territory.

At least two of the injured persons will die.

### BURNS TO DEATH.

Miss Bonnie Riffe, daughter of Morgan Riffe, a prominent farmer residing near Burnsville, was burned to death last night. Her clothes ignited from a grate. Her age was 15 years.

### HARRIS RELEASED

Justice Finds That He is Not a Lunatic and Lets Him Go.

James Harris, a negro who was put in jail nineteen days ago under suspicion of being a lunatic, was discharged as sane Monday morning by Justice W. P. Camp. Harris said the habitual use of "dope" had been the cause of his queer actions. This was thought to be the case soon after he was jailed and it was decided to keep him in jail for a number of days in the hope that he would recover. Daily visits to the prisoner by the justice convinced the latter that Harris was not crazy and Monday morning it was believed the man had recovered sufficiently to be released.

### ELKINS BETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—Senator Stephen B. Elkins, it is stated, during the last three of four days has made most marked improvement. It is stated, however, that the senator is not as yet out of danger.

## SEVEN VOTES ARE SURELY TAINTED

Declares Senator Frazier, a Member of the Lorimer Committee.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 19.—19—Senator Frazier, who is home for the holidays, stated today that dispatches from Washington that the report of the subcommittee of the Lorimer investigation was unanimous were incorrect. He said he filed with the full committee a statement disagreeing with the findings of the other members of the subcommittee freeing the election of Lorimer of charges of corruption. He said the evidence established that four Illinois legislators confessed that they were bribed to vote for Lorimer and also bribing was done by three others who voted for Lorimer. His conclusion is that seven votes were therefore tainted.

### BUSY WEEK

Cadenza Orchestra Will Have Playing for Various Holiday Dances.

The Cadenza orchestra will have a busy week next week playing music for various dances as it has been engaged for every night in the week.

Monday night, December 26, the orchestra will play for a special Christmas night ball to be given for young folk in the armory in Glen Elk. Tuesday night it will furnish music for a dance to be given at the same place by the Moon Club. The following night it will execute the musical program for the assembly hall in the assembly room of the Waldo hotel. Thursday night it will play for the Sigma Club dance at the armory. Friday night the Minuet Club will have its services for a dance in Hoffman Hall and Saturday night the organization will go to Shinnston and furnish music for a club dance to be given by prominent young men of that town the same night.

### FROZEN TO DEATH

On Juliana Street Bridge at Parkersburg is James Biles, a Laborer.

PARKERSBURG, Dec. 19.—The dead body of James Biles, a laborer, was found early in the morning on the Juliana street bridge across the Little Kanawha river, literally frozen to one of the upright iron posts on the bridge. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Biles was frozen to death. The man's body when found was about to fall into the river, a distance of fifty feet or more, as the bridge is being repaired and is close to traffic and there was a large hole in the floor. His body was on the edge of the opening, but one arm was frozen fast to a steel girder and this prevented the body from going into the river.

### SUSPECT

Of Insanity is Examined, Pronounced Sane and Released from Jail.

John Faustau, a coal miner, was released from custody today and sent to the Perry coal mine near Adamston. He had been held a few days pending a determination of his sanity. The medical examination by Dr. A. T. Post before Justice Samuel W. Gordon resulted in the conclusion that he was sane. Queer conduct in the court house was the cause of his detention.

Orman Randolph, of Burnsville, is in the city.

## LICENSES

Are Granted and Transferred by County Court at Monday Sessions.

Transferring and granting licenses of various kinds constituted the principal work of the county court at its Monday session.

The retail liquor license of Robert A. Davis was transferred to Ashford B. and John S. Howard.

William Marx's pool and billiard license was transferred to G. B. Fox.

Restaurant licenses were granted to Edward Mills and J. M. Carr, E. A. Wiley, Rose Nichols and C. W. Haymond.

Pool and billiard licenses were granted to C. W. Haymond, John and Steve Mashas and the Fairmont and Clarksburg Amusement Company.

Bowling alley license was granted to the Fairmont and Clarksburg Amusement Company. Jesse G. Lawson qualified as a notary public.

Felix O. Sutton qualified as guardian of Lettie A. and Bessie V. Cottrill with separate bonds of \$300 each and James H. Mines surety.

A pool and billiard license was granted to Isaac David.

## WISE OLD HORSE

Tires of Standing so Long and Decides to Take a Nap in the Street.

Becoming tired of standing too long in one place a wise old horse which belongs to a resident of the country, decided to take a rest this afternoon; so he lay down in the street for a little nap, causing considerable excitement among a crowd of Christmas shoppers who were coming out of Mitchell & Kane's new store.

Some men who were passing decided that it was not in accordance with animal etiquette for a horse to sleep in the street and after some little trouble they got the beast on his feet, where he stood eating some hay which was in a bucket.

## NEW CARS

Are Being Shipped for the Traction Company to Be Shipped Here.

The Fairmont and Clarksburg Traction Company is getting six new cars from the Newark Car Company, of Newark, O.

Two of the cars were shipped two days ago and four more today.

The first two were shipped to Fairmont where trucks will be placed under the bodies and they will be equipped for service. The company hopes to have them in service by tonight.

One of these cars will be used in Fairmont and the other will be put in the car service here.

Of the four cars that were shipped today two will be used in Fairmont and two will be brought to Clarksburg.

### SEASON ENDS.

The season for hunting quail and rabbits will close tomorrow, much to the regret of the hundreds of hunters. As a whole, this season has been one of the most successful for several years, as far as the hunter is concerned, as game was plentiful in all sections.

N. M. Hooker, of Buckhannon, is a visitor in the city.

Two Men Are Instantly Killed While Several Others Escape Unhurt.

### ANOTHER EXPLOSION

Of Local Nature Occurs in Enterprise Mine But No One is Injured.

Two unidentified coal miners were instantly killed by a local gas explosion early Monday morning in the Consolidation Coal Company's Middleton mine between Hutchinson and Monongah. Several other miners who were in the mine at the time escaped unhurt. The explosion occurred between 6 and 7 o'clock before the usual time the most of the one hundred miners go to work there for the day.

A local gas explosion also occurred about two hours earlier in the Enterprise mine, two miles distant, but no one was injured and the damage was slight.

### Gas from a Well.

The explosion in the Middleton mine was caused by escaping gas from a gas well on Koon's run, about a mile and half from the mine entrance, which was drilled in about two years ago by the Hope Natural Gas Company. Like other wells that are drilled through the coal, this one was cased in to a point below the coal, the casing was imbedded in cement and a block of solid coal, eighty feet square was left around the well. It is believed that a sudden rush of gas in the well caused a leakage through the coal and that the escaping gas was ignited from a light upon a miner's cap, doubtless upon a cap of one of those who were killed.

As the explosion occurred in the far end of the mine and was confined to a comparatively small area, the other few miners in the mine at the time were far enough away to escape burning or suffocation. The moment they heard the explosion and felt the rush of air caused by the vacuum they rushed out.

### Bodies Are Recovered.

A short time after the explosion the bodies of the two dead men were found and brought to the surface. At the time this article was written the officials of the coal company had not been able to identify the dead men.

Only slight damage was caused by the explosion of this mine and about \$100 will cover the loss.

Employees of the Hope Natural Gas Company went to the well immediately on being notified of the accident and began work of relieving the pressure of gas.

### The Enterprise Explosion.

Only one man, a fire boss, was in the Enterprise mine when the explosion occurred there. He rushed toward the entrance and was assisted in walking out when within a short distance of the entrance. The explosion occurred in one of the headings and affected only a small area. A few brattices were broken and a roadway of an air shaft was damaged. The total damage is about \$100.

About 150 men are employed in the Enterprise mine, but as the explosion occurred early in the morning before their usual time of going to work there was no one in the vicinity.

## COAL PLANT

At Newburg is Sold at Court Receiver's Sale for a Big Sum.

NEWBURG, W. Va., Dec. 19.—The entire plant, coal, machinery, mine equipment of all kinds and live stock, property of the Manufacturers Coal & Coke Company, operating on Three Fork creek, one mile from Newburg, was sold at receiver's sale. The Philadelphia Trust Company bid \$60,000 for the entire plant except the leasehold and personal property, and the bid was accepted. The personal property, including steel rails, tools, engines, boilers, mine cars and mules, was purchased by Mr. Fritz, of Philadelphia, at \$2,500. The coal holdings comprise 3,822 acres and is said to be assessed at \$40 an acre, while at the sale it brought the average of \$12.95 an acre.

## CHIEF JUSTICE WHITE INDUCTED INTO OFFICE

\$30,000 Statue In Honor of General Oglethorpe In Savannah, Ga.



Savannah, Ga., has honored the memory of General James Edward Oglethorpe with a \$30,000 bronze statue, one of the finest of its kind in the country. General Oglethorpe was the friend of the American colonies during many trying days. He was born in England in 1696. In 1733, after being sent to parliament, he secured a charter for a tract of land near Savannah, and in 1733 he arrived in Charleston and soon after founded Savannah. He laid the foundation for the State of Georgia and did much to keep the south in the possession of the English. He had a stormy career, fighting the Spaniards, the French and the Indians and advancing his own money to protect the English colony. In 1765 he was raised to the rank of general in command of all the king's forces.

## WEST VIRGINIA IS CLIMBING IN COAL

Production to the Serious Relegation of the State of Maryland.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Increased competition with West Virginia coal is assigned by the Geological Survey as the chief cause of the decline in the price of Maryland coal in 1908 and 1909, as shown by the Survey's figures. The coal coming from the fields opened by the Virginian Railway is held especially responsible for the falling off in the price of Maryland coal.

According to statistics just made public by the Geological Survey, Maryland's production of coal, which fell from 5,532,628 short tons in 1907 to 4,377,093 tons in 1908, showed a further decrease to 4,022,181 tons in 1909. The decrease in value each year has been larger in proportion than the decrease in production. In 1907 the value of the coal mined was \$6,622,697, decreasing in 1908 to \$5,116,753 and in 1909 to \$4,470,565. The average price per ton has decreased from \$1.20 in 1907 to \$1.11 in 1909.

While the decreased value has been due largely to competition with West Virginia, the decreased production is said to have been caused by the approaching exhaustion of the "Maryland big vein," that portion of the Pittsburg bed which has furnished the larger part of the Maryland output, popularly known as the George's Creek coal. In a few years the report continues, the thinner and deeper beds will be furnishing the markets formerly supplied by "big vein" coal, but these beds will be mined at a greater cost and their product must be sold at a higher price or less profit.

### DAVIS TRANSFERRED.

Okey J. Davis has been transferred from a substitute carrier to a substitute clerk in the postoffice here.

### HAS OVER.

Harlan Griffin, of Parkersburg, is a typhoid fever patient in a local hospital. He is quite ill.

## FORGERY

Is Charged Against a Man Who Wants Fare Paid to Go Back.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Dec. 19.—If the State of West Virginia agrees to pay for the transportation of his wife and seven children, Walter S. Fletcher, of Ravenswood, W. Va., a painter arrested near here charged with forgery, says he will go back to the scene of his alleged crime without requisition papers. This proposition will be put up to the West Virginia officers when they arrive here to take Fisher back. The forgery is alleged to have been committed a month ago, a considerable sum of money being secured. It is said, Fletcher and his family came to Washington two weeks ago, and have been living in abject poverty. The accused man has been without work for some time. The local police received a telegram from Sheriff W. L. McGowan, of Ravenswood, and the family residence here was located.

The police found the mother in the last stages of tuberculosis in a bare little room with four of her children. Fletcher was found with the three other children hiding in an abandoned hut on a farm near here.

### BOAT CLEARS PORT.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 19.—The former United States gunboat, Hornet, reported to have been purchased by the Honduran revolutionists, cleared from this port this afternoon for Cape Gracias with a crew of twenty men.

### CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 19.—Wheat, 99 7/8; corn, 45 1/4; oats, 31 1/4.

James Boyle, who is attending the University of Pennsylvania, returned home Saturday evening to spend the holidays.

An Interesting Review of the History of Such Solemn Occasions.

### TWO OATHS ARE TAKEN

One to Support the Constitution and Other to Do Equal Justice.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—Edward Douglas White assumed the duties of chief justice of the supreme court of the United States today.

Simple and public were the ceremonies of installation, which were held in the presence of the chief and a distinguished gathering. The oath of allegiance was administered by Associate Justice Harlan.

Because of the overwhelming modesty of Chief Justice White, officials of the court were uncertain as to the exact details of the ceremony of the day until they had occurred. In a general way, the broad customs attending the induction into office of the head of the court were followed:

Unlike the inauguration of a president as the head of the coordinate branch of the government, the induction into office of a chief justice of the United States has always been a comparatively unostentatious occasion. Instead of an escort from the Capitol to the White House composed of duly attired civic organizations and seasoned military commands, a new chief justice has only his black robe and brethren on the bench in procession from the robing room to the court room. Instead of his approach being heralded by loud hurrahs of cheering thousands, the advance to power of a new chief justice is announced by nothing more than the solitary tones of the court crier. Instead of an inaugural address outlining his policies, the only utterance of a new chief justice is the solemn words of his oath of office.

The dignity resting in the customs founded on the swearing into office of John Jay, John Rutledge, Oliver Ellsworth and John Marshall, and perfected in the days of Roger B. Taney, Salmon P. Chase, Morrison R. Waite and Melville W. Fuller was not materially disturbed today by radical innovations.

The ceremonies of elevating an associate justice of the court into the chief justice of the nation began in the secret confines of the court's robing room. It is here that the oath of allegiance is administered, just before the court takes its place on the bench. The oath prepared for today's occasion, followed the form prescribed by law. It read:

"I, Edward Douglas White, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

It was a similar oath of allegiance that created such a tempest in the court, back in reconstruction days. Hence unusual interest was centered in its administration today to the first chief justice, who had borne arms in the cause of the Confederacy by the senior associate justice.

(Continued on page 5.)

## NEW ICE PLANT

Is to Be Built and Operated Near the B. & O. Station Here.

Sanitary Ice Company, of Clarksburg, has been chartered to manufacture ice. Capital stock, \$75,000. Incorporators: Thomas Shaw, William L. Keyes, M. E. Henderson, John Patton, and Nathan Knight, of Clarksburg.

The company organized Saturday night by electing officers as follows: H. E. Henderson, president; Nathan Knight vice president; Thomas Shaw secretary and Mr. Keyes treasurer.

It is the intention to erect and operate a modern ice plant near the Baltimore and Ohio station here.